



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/425,177	10/22/1999	MICHAEL CARROLL	52817.000102	9182
29315	7590	01/08/2004	EXAMINER	
MINTZ LEVIN COHN FERRIS GLOVSKY AND POPEO PC 12010 SUNSET HILLS ROAD SUITE 900 RESTON, VA 20190				YUAN, ALMARI ROMERO
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2176				

DATE MAILED: 01/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/425,177	CARROLL, MICHAEL
Examiner	Art Unit	
Almari Yuan	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ .
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: After Final Amendment filed on 12/09/03.
2. The rejection of claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern et al. in view of Fleming et al. has been withdrawn in light of newly found art.
3. The rejection of claims 3-4, 11-12, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern, Fleming and Greyson has been withdrawn in light of newly found art.
4. Claims 1-20 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 are independent claims.

Drawings

5. The drawings filed on 10/22/99 are objected to as indicated in the attached PTO-948 form. Formal corrected drawings can be filed at allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 13, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Introducing Microsoft Windows 95, 1995, Microsoft Corporation, page 27 (herein after "Microsoft") in view of Microsoft Windows 95 application "screenshots", 1995, Microsoft Corporation, pages 1-3 (herein after "Windows 95").**

Regarding independent claims 1, 9 and 16, Microsoft discloses:

A method of processing at least two associated target information regions within an electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting input to select a continuous target information region; accepting input to process the associated target information regions (Microsoft on page 27 teaches the user can select multiple items by pressing and holding the CTRL key as the user clicks each item they want. The multiple items can be continuously selected).

However, does not explicitly disclose, "deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions".

Windows 95 on page 2 shows the user can select in sequence the desired items and on page 3 shows the user can deselect the selected desired item by pressing and holding down the CTRL key and clicking with the mouse on the item forming two noncontiguous regions of items.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Microsoft into Windows 95 to provide a way to deselect the selected items and form two noncontiguous regions of items, as shown by Windows 95, incorporated into the selecting of multiple items using the CTRL key, as taught by Microsoft, in order to provide a user-friendly management of files or folders in a Windows 95 application.

Regarding dependent claim 5, Windows 95 discloses:

accepting input for creating additional associated noncontiguous target information regions (Windows 95 on page 3 shows the user can deselect the selected desired item by pressing and holding down the CTRL key and clicking with the mouse on the item forming two noncontiguous regions of items).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Microsoft into Windows 95 to provide a way to deselect the selected items and form two noncontiguous regions of items, as shown by Windows 95, incorporated into the selecting of multiple items using the CTRL key, as taught by Microsoft, in order to provide a user-friendly management of files or folders in a Windows 95 application.

Regarding dependent claim 6, Windows 95 discloses:

accepting further input to change content of the at least two associated target information regions (Windows 95 on page 3 shows the user can change the content or text of the selected item).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Microsoft into Windows 95 to provide a way to deselect the selected items and form two noncontiguous regions of items, as shown by Windows 95, incorporated into the selecting of multiple items using the CTRL key, as taught by Microsoft, in order to provide a user-friendly management of files or folders in a Windows 95 application

Regarding dependent claims 7 and 15, Microsoft discloses:

wherein the electronic document comprises graphical information (Microsoft on page 27 shows thumbnails of files within a folder).

Regarding dependent claim 13, Microsoft discloses:

wherein the input interface accepts input from at least one of a keyboard, a speech to text converter, a mouse, a pressure pad and a trackball device (Microsoft on page 27 a mouse can be used for input and selection).

Regarding independent claim 17, Microsoft discloses:

A system for processing noncontiguous target information within an electronic document, the system comprising:

input means to accept input for selecting a contiguous target information region and processor means for processing the target information regions, said processor means operatively connected to the input means (Microsoft on page 27 teaches the user can select multiple items by pressing and holding the CTRL key as the user clicks each item they want. The multiple items can be continuously selected).

However, Microsoft does not explicitly disclose "selecting at least one information separating region that divides the continuous target information region into at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions".

Windows 95 on page 2 shows the user can select in sequence the desired items and on page 3 shows the user can deselect the selected desired item by pressing and holding down the CTRL key and clicking with the mouse on the item forming two noncontiguous regions of items.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Microsoft into Windows 95 to provide a way to deselect the selected items and form two noncontiguous regions of items, as shown by Windows 95,

incorporated into the selecting of multiple items using the CTRL key, as taught by Microsoft, in order to provide a user-friendly management of files or folders in a Windows 95 application.

8. **Claims 2-4, 8, 10-12, 14, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Microsoft" in view of "Windows 95", as applied to claims 1, 5-7, 9, 13, and 15-17 above, in further view Greyson et al. (USPN 5,666,552 – issued on 09/1997).**

Regarding dependent claims 2, 10, and 18, Microsoft and Windows 95 disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Microsoft and Windows 95 do not explicitly disclose "wherein the contiguous target information regions comprises text".

Greyson on col. 5, line 56 – col. 6, line 28: teaches a set of available text such as a signal line of text, a set of numeric characters, a set of special characters or other displayable symbols can be selected. Highlighting the selected text region visually indicates the selection.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Greyson into Microsoft and Windows 95 to provide a way select a line of text by highlighting, as taught by Greyson, incorporated into the selection of a graphic or thumbnail, as taught by Microsoft and Windows 95, in order to directly and visually manipulate text or symbols on a computer display screen.

Regarding dependent claim 3, Microsoft and Windows 95 disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Microsoft and Windows 95 do not explicitly disclose "first begin select delimiter located left of the target information and a first end select delimiter located right of the continuous target information region".

Greyson et al. (Greyson) on col. 5, line 43 – col. 6, line 28: teaches initial and final selection point of the selection region.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Greyson into Microsoft and Windows 95 to provide a way to point the selection region with initial and final selection point, as taught by Greyson, incorporated into the selection of a graphic or thumbnail, as taught by Microsoft or Windows 95, in order to directly and visually manipulate text on a computer display screen requiring user control activations thereby simplifying the user interface.

Regarding dependent claim 4, Greyson discloses:

accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the target information region comprises storing locations of a second end select delimiter that is located between the first begin select delimiter and first end select delimiter and a second begin select delimiter that is between the second and first end select delimiters (Greyson on col. 5, line 43 – col. 6, line 28: teaches extending from the initial selection point to the final selection point of the selection region; wherein using the cursor will define the bounds of the selection region).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Greyson into Microsoft and Windows 95 to provide a way to point the selection region with initial and final selection point, as taught by Greyson, incorporated into the selection of a graphic or thumbnail, as taught by Microsoft or Windows 95, in order to directly and visually manipulate text on a computer display screen requiring user control activations thereby simplifying the user interface.

Regarding dependent claim 8, Greyson discloses:

Art Unit: 2176

wherein the continuous target information region and the at least one portion of the continuous target information region that is deselected (Windows 95 on page 3 shows the deselecting of an item) are each defined by a rectangle, each rectangle having two delimiter tags located at opposite corners (Greyson on col. 5, line 56 – col. 6, line 28: teaches highlighting (visually show as a rectangle) the selected text region visually indicates the selection).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Greyson into Microsoft and Windows 95 to provide a way select a line of text by highlighting, as taught by Greyson, incorporated into the selection of a graphic or thumbnail, as taught by Microsoft and Windows 95, in order to directly and visually manipulate text or symbols on a computer display screen.

Regarding dependent claims 11 and 19, Greyson discloses:

wherein the processor unit stores a begin tag and an end tag for each of the target information regions (Greyson on col. 5, line 43 – col. 6, line 28: teaches initial (begin tag) and final (end tag) selection point of the selection region) and (Windows 95 on page 3 discloses at least 2 noncontiguous portions of items).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Greyson into Microsoft and Windows 95 to provide a way select a line of text by highlighting, as taught by Greyson, incorporated into the selection of a graphic or thumbnail, as taught by Microsoft and Windows 95, in order to directly and visually manipulate text or symbols on a computer display screen.

Regarding dependent claims 12 and 20, Windows 95 discloses:

Art Unit: 2176

further comprising an output interface to transmit a display that shows at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions in a different manner than the at least one deselected portion of the continuous target information region (Windows 95 on page 3 shows at least 2 noncontiguous portions of items from the deselecting of an item).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Windows 95 into Microsoft and Greyson to provide a way to deselect an item forming two noncontiguous portions of items, as taught by Windows 95, incorporated into the selection of a text or graphic, as taught by Microsoft and Greyson, in order to directly and visually manipulate text or symbols on a computer display screen.

Regarding dependent claim 14, Windows 95 discloses:

wherein the input interface receives input for a positional indicator and the processor unit selects information when the positional indicator is moved in a first direction and deselects information when the positional indicator is moved in a second direction (Windows 95 on page 2 shows the user can select in sequence the desired items by using the mouse and on page 3 shows the user can deselect the selected desired item by pressing and holding down the CTRL key and clicking with the mouse on the item).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Windows 95 into Microsoft and Greyson to provide a way to deselect an item forming two noncontiguous portions of items, as taught by Windows 95, incorporated into the selection of a text or graphic, as taught by Microsoft and Greyson, in order to directly and visually manipulate text or symbols on a computer display screen.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Yuan whose telephone number is (703) 305-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (8:30am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

AY
January 7, 2004



JOSEPH H. FEILD
PRIMARY EXAMINER